WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of sizing hardware, comprising:

determining a system event arrival rate; and

selecting a processor system having a benchmark event processing rate that is greater than or equal to the system event arrival rate.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the system event arrival rate is a burst event arrival rate.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining an amount of memory in accordance with a number of processors in the selected processor system.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said determining the system event arrival rate comprises:

determining an annual event volume for each planned business process, wherein the system event arrival rate is based, at least in part, on the annual event volume for each planned business process.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said determining comprises:

extrapolating an event volume for one or more planned business processes from another planned business process' volume to provide an extrapolated event volume, wherein the system event arrival rate is based, at least in part, on the extrapolated event volume.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein said determining comprises:

extrapolating the event volume for one or more planned business processes from a master record volume to provide an extrapolated event volume, wherein the system event arrival rate is based, at least in part, on the extrapolated event volume.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said determining comprises:

selecting a confidence level that events will not be queued and determining the system event arrival rate in accordance with the confidence level.

8. An apparatus for sizing hardware, comprising:

a computer having a storage device connected thereto; and

one or more computer programs, stored on the storage device, and to be executed by the computer, for:

determining a system event arrival rate; and

selecting a processor system having a benchmarked event processing rate that is greater than or equal to the system event arrival rate.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the system event arrival rate is a burst event arrival rate.

10. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said one or more computer programs is also for:

determining an amount of memory in accordance with a number of processors in the selected processor system.

11. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said determining the system event arrival rate comprises:

determining an annual event volume for each planned business process, wherein the system event arrival rate is based, at least in part, on the annual event volume for each planned business process.

12. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said determining comprises:

extrapolating an event volume for one or more planned business processes from another planned business process' volume or a master record volume to provide an extrapolated event volume, wherein the system event arrival rate is based, at least in part, on the extrapolated event volume.

13. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said determining comprises:

selecting a confidence level that events will not be queued and determining the system event arrival rate in accordance with the confidence level.

14. An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform a method of sizing hardware, the method comprising:

determining a system event arrival rate; and

selecting a processor system having a benchmark event processing rate that is greater than or equal to the system event arrival rate.

15. The article of manufacture of claim 14 wherein the system event arrival rate is a burst event arrival rate.

16. The article of manufacture of claim 14 wherein the method further comprises:

determining an amount of memory in accordance with a number of processors in the selected processor system.

17. The article of manufacture of claim 14 wherein said determining the system event arrival rate comprises:

determining an annual event volume for each planned business process, wherein the system event arrival rate is based, at least in part, on the annual event volume for each planned business process.

18. The article of manufacture of claim 14 wherein said determining comprises: extrapolating an event volume for one or more planned business processes from another planned business process' volume to provide an extrapolated event volume, wherein the system event arrival rate is based, at least in part, on the extrapolated event volume.

19. The article of manufacture of claim 14 wherein said determining comprises: extrapolating the event volume for one or more planned business processes from a master record volume to provide an extrapolated event volume, wherein the system event arrival rate is based, at least in part, on the extrapolated event volume.

20. The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein said determining comprises: selecting a confidence level that events will not be queued and determining the system event arrival rate in accordance with the confidence level.